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VIVID DESCRIPTION OF M'ARTHUR'S ADVANCE

Continued from page 6.

tance, and in two minutes more we saw brown, bare-legged, hatless men running like scared animals from out that new trench. Another cheer, another dash, and then we take breath as we stand looking back over the hardy won swamp, while the men, looking for bolts, arms or other trophy, scatter through the nipa shelters that protected the insurgents' outposts from the rains. "It's that red pants outfit," yells a soldier; and again the cheers go sailing northward to overtake the fleeing remnant of one of the best of the insurgent regiments and dip into their ears that once more they have failed to stop the American soldiers in an advance made head-on against trenches and over ground so heavy that, when night found General MacArthur established in General San Miguel's late headquarters at this place, General Wheaton and General Liscun, the commanders of the brigades, stated in the plainest terms that it was a more difficult advance than anything that they had encountered during the civil war. Men were waded through. Many places had been waist-deep in water and half-log deep in mud; but we had cleared the country for a distance of five miles north, east and west of San Fernando; scattered San Miguel's force; driven Pilar out of Mexico, and pushed Mascardillo from Bacalar to Porac.

Night found the division bivouaced in the streets of this place. Here we waited until the supplies came up. It is an axiom of war that an army travels on its belly. And an army that is as short of transportation as is this division can make but little headway. For each regiment we have but two four-mule wagons and a few bull carts to carry rations along waterways that once were roads, or across swamps that once were fields. I do not recall that the mule was ever an object of worship by a people, but I am assured that the Eighth army corps would joyously crown each of a thousand mules with wreaths of sugar cane could they but be sent us.

Once again it can be stated as a fact that the insurgents have violated the sacredness of a flag of truce. A battalion of the 17th Infantry, while making a sharp advance, was confronted

with the world-known signal. Ordering fire to cease, the battalion commander sent an officer forward to meet the flag. When the Americans had reached a point only a short distance from the insurgent position they were met by a blast of rifle fire. The flag was hastily withdrawn and another treacherous act had been consummated.

Another bit of treachery was shown on the same day. It was the trick of a coward. Gen. Wheaton and his staff were advancing on a road, when far ahead could be seen a group of people. The glass showed it to be made up of women and children, with an occasional old man bearing a basket on his head. As the general rode on the little group was seen to suddenly part and its members made a dash to either side of the road, quickly disappearing in the dense growth that lined the narrow way. The movement was plainly by command of one in authority. Then, scarcely waiting for the mask of innocents to secure shelter, from a point immediately in the rear a squad of the enemy opened fire at their cowardly won range. Fortune favored the general and his staff; but, by this dastardly trick, they were exposed not only to one volley, but to several, before the general advance could sweep up on the right and left and clear the road by flanking it. To fire down the road with women and children in our front was not dreamed of by our men and the rebels had taken advantage of that fact.

There is not an officer or soldier in the entire command but realizes that we are fighting savages. And it makes one's blood boil to see our medical department working faithfully and skillfully over wounded members of a force that we know has no regard for so sacred a thing as the flag of peace and mutilates the bodies of the wounded, as those of the 4th Infantry were mutilated that day near Las Pinas.

Death must come to some of us, but mutilation is abhorrent in thought.

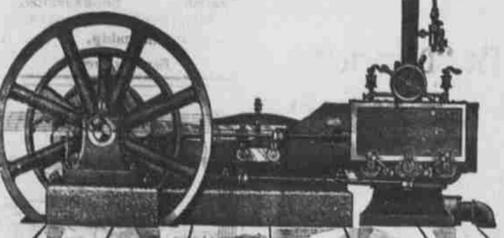
It is reputed, and is probably untrue, that the wife of the president of the Transvaal Republic not only does her own cooking, makes her own beds and waits on the table, passing the dishes even at state dinners, but that she often takes a hand at the family washing. Although her famous husband has a capital of some \$25,000,000, she boasts that they have never lived beyond their "coffee money," \$2,000 a year, allowed them by the government.

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